Steady Strictures Vol. 3

Vignettes and Musings

In Vol.2 I said the next issue would be back to film. That was a lie. I'm switching it up and doing whatever. You'll see what I mean. Here is a picture of a family of gnomes. Gnomes are having a moment, and we all need to appreciate that. If you see gnomes, you are on the right track.

There’s a woman in my neighborhood who speaks along to songs she’s listening to on her headphones very loudly while walking her dog. The other day I heard her say, “there’s a star man waiting in the sky.” I saw her again today. She saw me and told her dog to stay. After I passed, she started up again and said, “I been through the desert on a horse with no name. Felt good to get out of the rain.”

The writer in the baseball cap I normally see at the tea shop was down by Prince Coffee this morning. When he saw me he said, “another beautiful day. The great awakening of the people.”

NW 18th and Glisan was alive today as the Irish jam played on. A man in a wheelchair sat in the street yelling at cars while some college aged kids loaded up a truck with ski equipment. Their shirts all said Vermont. One of the Irish musicians said, I've seen their mountains. They’re nothing. And they all laughed.

I checked the score of the Timbers game and saw that LA equalized. I meant to watch it, but the Irish jam was making me happy. I had a burger and fries with two red ales. One of the musicians briefly chatted with me since he remembered me being there before and another one nodded at me later on. I took off around 4 and went to buy a lamp at William Temple because my Christmas lights on my living room window were dying and my only other light source in that room was a horrible overhead light on my ceiling fan. I found one for 15 bucks and it even works.

Kombucha
SOMA
Taprooms
NO CASH ON
SITE EVER
KOBE

I went to a kombucha tasting room that I'd been meaning to try for ages since the bus goes right by it. I walked in and the person working was sitting on a couch with her dog and reading a book. She greeted me and explained how the shop works. You can sample all of them for free and then get either a cup or a growler. Soon after, a couple walked in with a box of growlers ready to be filled. True kombucha enthusiasts.

Then someone walked in and asked about the health benefits of kombucha. The person working gave them some kind of booklet. The customer then said they just walked over from Hawthorne and were going to head up to Tabor and that they forgot Tabor wasn't that far. But then they said, "I think this whole thing is just like because of Mercury in retrograde." It wasn't clear if they meant them being confused or maybe just general current events, even though they hadn't mentioned anything like that before. The person working was like, "Ok. Yeah. Thanks so much for coming in."

I saw my absolute ideal show the other day. Ovlov and Washer finally came out west for the first time and played Mississippi Studios here in Portland. Both of them are bands I've been listening to for almost ten years, so the show had a lot of significance for me.

It made me feel a lot of things. The songs brought me back to what is now a completely different time in some ways but also a very similar time. I started listening to bands from the Exploding in Sound label including Ovlov and Washer right around when I graduated college. I played both bands constantly while I was in a mindset of trying to figure out how I was going to leave central Pennsylvania including during the time I was working in a burrito shop. I also listened a lot right after when I was living in the D.C. area and even got to see Washer in late 2017. I was never able to see Ovlov though and didn't think I ever would as neither band was able to do extensive touring.

Their music also reminds me of what was going on in the world at the time. I was back in my hometown during the election in 2016 and watched the Trump signs pop up around the neighborhood where I'd grown up, even further solidifying my will to leave. After the first term ended, I really did not think I would see the red hats in power again considering the way in which it ended. It now feels oddly appropriate to once again hear these songs and now all of their new music as well.

Seeing them live also reminded me of how humble they all are. Both bands are in my opinion some of the greatest ever, so the fact they were constantly thanking us all for showing up and giving them a warm welcome was very refreshing. When Steve from Ovlov was talking between sets, it felt like we were all just hanging out even though there were so many of us. There was no feeling of separation between the crowd and band, which I find really interesting because they're able to be like that and also be an absolutely phenomenal band. It just make me really happy that my favorite bands are also just really great people too.

THUG LIFE

Some things you pick up from other people are kind of wrong or harmful. I started putting on a serious face when I was out in public and especially cafes at some point and that's all kind of just bullshit. Maybe if there's someone you definitely don't want to talk to nearby or if you really don’t want to talk to anyone, but otherwise there's no need for it. I was just thinking about it recently. People who are doing work on laptops in cafes always do it. Like what they’re working on is earth-shatteringly important and we should all be very impressed.

I’ve never really thought about the word pretension much. “A claim or assertion of a claim to something” or “the use of affection to impress; ostentatiousness.” Like everyone needs to know I’m important or doing something cool or whatever. I wonder how much time I’ve wasted trying to seem a certain way when I could have just been how I was.

1336
BEWA
POKER
PLAYERS
LOOSE
WOMEN
SMILE
YOU'RE ON CAMERA

America pretends it's special and isn't just another country. It puts too much pressure on itself. Surely only a country that is extremely insecure goes around constantly proclaiming it's the best. If it were a person, I’d want to stay well clear.

Grow
Pure
Earth
Beau
Amazing

Met up with my friend at the Irish jam and then went to Vista Springs Cafe. Stumbled on some recently painted gnomes drying out near Burnside. After eating, we found a secluded basketball court and a ball so we shot some hoops then walked on a bridge over the forest and looked at all the mansions up there.

OUTBACK
Gnomes trained in the ancient arts of battle and sorcery watch over this vehicle.

Back in 2017, I spent a week in San Francisco staying with my friend Erin. It was the first time I ever went to the west coast. I was overwhelmed with the beauty of it and could never get the west coast out of my head ever since. It was a very fun week, and the significant differences I'd noticed in how people seemed to approach life compared to the east coast were firmly implanted in my brain immediately. One of the first things I saw was a young couple sitting on the back of a street car. Some kind of security guard or cop or someone was screaming at them, and they did not look concerned in the slightest. The streetcar then took off and they got away.

Another memorable incident however came on the way back. I had a layover in Chicago before my flight back to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The flight was canceled not long after I got into Chicago and I spent the night in the airport. The next day, I was at the gate waiting to board and was suddenly surrounded by people from Pennsylvania once again. It wasn't just that the flight had been canceled. People were in such horrific moods as if their entire lives were ruined. There was a stark difference in people's mentalities from where I'd just come to where I was then. It was strange to be in that in-between zone not being in either place but noticing lots of people who were from my area. This guy who was probably around my age turned to me and said, "well, at least THIS one is finally boarding." It seemed very over done to me, but maybe he was actually that angry.

A couple times I heard an announcement for a flight to San Francisco that was now boarding, which made me desperately want to run back and try to board that one instead. Standing among central Pennsylvanians once again made me want to go very far away for good. I was tired of relating to people through negativity the majority of the time. Or maybe I was just looking for an excuse. I was going to leave anyway.

Effective immediately, steady strictures ltd. llc. inc. co. will begin monitoring itself for content that is not to the liking of those who are sitting behind a specific set of desks. When those people are replaced by other people, steady strictures will then adapt its opinions and actions to the new set of people sitting behind those desks. We will also conduct a thorough analysis of our own desks to identify any desk dwellers who are doing vital work and immediately dismiss them.

steady strictures recognizes that it is now not ok to point out wrongdoing. Evil acts are now allowed and encouraged. The government supports genocide, bigotry, and even double dipping, and so will steady strictures in accordance with the new initiative ABYT (act before you think) in which careful consideration is now condemned and reflection is discouraged. Under section 2.1.1.1.1.2.2.222.112.2 of resolution 96, steady strictures will engage only in hateful thoughts and we won't even make our beds in the morning. This is for our own safety.

From now on, if steady strictures has nothing bad to say, we will say nothing at all. We will buy big cars and drive from one parking lot to the next yelling at everyone in their big cars because we love this country. We will watch reruns of NFL games even in the summertime and memorize the commercials. We also recognize that the people who know the most about a specific gender are those of another gender, therefore that other gender should get to decide everything because of their inherent wisdom which simply cannot be questioned. And this wisdom is gained from listening to people who are all one gender sitting around a table with microphones and headphones talking about another gender that is not represented whatsoever.

Learning is weakness. Knowledge is burdensome. America first always and forever. Amen.

J.D. VANCE
PUTS HIS CAST
IRON SKILLET IN
THE DISHWASHER

Thanks for reading.
Please draw gnomes in the margins of this zone.
@steady strictures for more